Letter

Military Aid Opposed

At this time, when the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate is considering military aid to Latin American countries, it seems appropriate to give attention to the effects of this program during the past 20 years.

U.S. taxpayers' money is given to the Latin American military establishments so that they may buy out of date U.S. weapons. This substantially strengthens the financial posture of the Pentagon. The arms are used to maintain the feudal status quo, and thereby suppress the aspirations of the vast majority of the people. This also means that the oligarchs and the business elite do not have to pay for the protection of their special interests and therefore may send, as they do, more than a billion dollars a year into foreign investments. This chain of events maintains a situation wherein all non-military aid is rendered almost completely ineffective and the high ideals of the Charter of Punte del Este become a bitter mockery.

If the tiny group of rich Latin Americans wish to perpetuate their position by force, they should pay the bill.

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